

CHAPTER 62
EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
[Prior to 9/7/88, see Public Instruction Department[670] Ch 60]

281—62.1(260A) Scope and general principles.

62.1(1) *Scope.* These rules apply to the provision of educational improvement projects authorized in Iowa Code chapter 260A.

62.1(2) *General principles.* Educational improvement projects may be developed by a local school district, as a cooperative effort between local school districts and through cooperative arrangements between local school districts and other agencies as defined in Iowa Code chapter 28E. Each educational improvement project should be consistent with the plans developed by the local district under Iowa Code chapter 260A. It is the responsibility of the school districts electing to implement such projects to ensure that they meet the requirements of state statute and these rules.

281—62.2(260A) Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter the following definitions apply.

“Academic excellence” is the attainment, by a targeted portion of the student population, of high levels of achievement in targeted curriculum areas and the ability to apply thinking skills such as creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and evaluation.

“Curriculum” refers to all pupil experiences that take place under the guidance of the school. It shall also be used to describe the school connected learning experience of any pupil and to indicate the arrangement of a group of courses to be taken by groups of students having a common objective. It is synonymous with the educational program of the school.

“Department” refers to the department of education.

“Instruction” is the putting of educational programs or curricular plans into practice.

“Local education agency” refers to a local school district.

“Program budget” is a budget consisting of a listing of the estimated direct program and object expenditures that are necessary to accomplish the goals of the project, along with a listing of the sources of revenue.

“School” may refer to either a school district or an attendance center within a school district.

281—62.3(260A) Development of plan. On or before November 1 of each year a local education agency may submit plans to the department for an educational improvement project for the school year commencing the following July 1.

281—62.4(260A) Project plan. The following items shall constitute a plan which must be filed with the department to qualify for additional allowable growth under provisions of Iowa Code chapter 260A.

62.4(1) *Content of the plan.* The plan shall:

- a. Describe the rationale for the project.
- b. Describe the target population, project focus and term of the project.
- c. Identify the goals and objectives of the planned project and designate the role of staff to meet these goals and objectives.
- d. Describe provisions, if any, for cooperative arrangements.
- e. Describe the design for project evaluation.
- f. Include a program budget.

62.4(2) Reserved.

281—62.5(260A) Responsibilities of participating local school districts.

62.5(1) *Development of goals and objectives.* Project goals and objectives shall be established for the following:

- a. Student outcomes.

- b. Curriculum and instruction.
- c. Staff utilization.

62.5(2) *Evaluation.* The local education agency shall give attention to the following in its evaluation design:

- a. Evaluation of educational improvement projects shall be for the purpose of measuring outcomes and providing information for improvement.
- b. Evaluation shall be conducted for each objective established.
- c. Both cognitive and affective components of student development shall be evaluated.
- d. Evaluation findings shall report results based on outcomes which are a direct result of the project.

62.5(3) *Staff utilization plan.* The staff utilization plan component of an educational improvement project shall include the following:

- a. A description of how personnel will be deployed in order to bring about educational improvement.
- b. Designation of a staff person who shall be responsible for overall project coordination throughout the local education agency.
- c. Designation of coordination time to be made available to the educational improvement project staff to permit carrying out duties under the plan.

62.5(4) *Budget procedures.* When projects are jointly provided by two or more local education agencies or by a local education agency in cooperation with another agency, each agency shall submit a separate program budget for the portion of the project costs it will provide. A combined budget for the entire project shall also be submitted specifying the contribution of each cooperating agency. Funds generated for the educational improvement project will be for expenditures directly related to the educational improvement plan activities.

62.5(5) *Indirect cost limitations.* In determining the minimum one-fourth to be funded from the district cost, no more than 15 percent of the total project costs may be indirect expenses.

62.5(6) *Application forms.* Districts shall submit applications for educational improvement projects on forms supplied by the department.

281—62.6(260A) Responsibilities of the department.

62.6(1) The department shall provide forms to local education agencies for educational improvement project proposals and reports. These materials shall be provided not fewer than 45 days before proposals are due for approval.

62.6(2) To the extent that resources are available, the department shall provide technical assistance to local education agencies and to area education agencies in the development of educational improvement programs.

62.6(3) The department shall perform educational improvement project review and approval.

62.6(4) The department shall develop a format for an educational improvement project annual report. This report is to be filed by local education agencies with the department on or before August 15 following the close of the school year.

62.6(5) The department shall determine and publish criteria for granting educational improvement incentive awards no later than August 15 of each year.

281—62.7(260A) Assurances. Each applicant shall assure that the project submitted has not previously been implemented in the district and that it requires funding which the district cannot provide. In addition, the department may require other assurances.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 260A.

[Filed without notice 7/27/84—published 8/15/84, effective 9/19/84]

[Filed 8/19/88, Notice 6/29/88—published 9/7/88, effective 10/12/88]